



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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Forestry Offers Tour of Reclaimed Mine Site Oct. 10 *Hardwood forest seedlings and American chestnut plantings*

Frankfort, Ky. (Oct. 4, 2013) – The Division of Forestry is celebrating the beginning of a new forest by inviting the public to visit and tour an old mine site now planted with hardwood forest seedlings and American chestnut plantings.

The event begins at 11 a.m. on Oct. 10, 2013. The site in Lawrence County is approximately two miles east of Martha on Highway 32.

The division used federal funds to demonstrate procedures for reclaiming mined land to working forests in an effort to show companies and private landowners the options available for returning mined land back to forests.

The division, in partnership with Abandoned Mine Lands; U.S. Forest Service; The American Chestnut Foundation; The University of Kentucky and Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative – and under agreement with the landowners, Delores and Ada Sparks – began preparing 16 acres in Lawrence County to receive 14,000 hardwood seedlings from the division's Morgan County nursery. These were planted in early March. The seedlings included high value oaks, mixed hickories and black locust, along with crossbred American chestnut and disease-resistant American elm.

Come find out more about the significance of the role of American chestnuts for the culture, economics, wildlife, Native Americans and, homesteads and how the ecological restoration of coal mine sites can be achieved through this combined forestry and coal mine reclamation initiative in the Southern Appalachian region.

For more specific directions, contact Pamela Snyder at Pamela.snyder@ky.gov.

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